

CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Public Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's office, the Town of Concord Historical Commission held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. using the Zoom meeting platform. Meeting ID: 871 3338 4460 Password: 353841

Commission Members Present: Melissa Saalfield, Michael Capizzi, Tom Beardsley, Rebecca Lemaitre, Nancy Nelson

Staff: Heather Gill, Senior Planner

Others: Susan Bates, Select Board Liaison
Patricia Ruze
Brian Davidson

Ms. Saalfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. by a roll call vote.

The Concord Prison Cemetery

Dr. Patricia Ruze provided a brief history of the Concord Prison Cemetery. Ms. Ruze explained that the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail runs adjacent to the cemetery and many residents will now be walking right by it. She stated that the cemetery is officially off limits to the public, but curious visitors may go there. Ms. Ruze explained that she would like to facilitate access to the cemetery with a paved path and an informational kiosk. Ms. Saalfield stated that the project may be eligible for CPA funding, and asked if she has spoken with the Cemetery Committee. Mr. Beardsley wondered if the cemetery committee would even have any jurisdiction over this if it is located on state land. Mr. Beardsley asked about the informational kiosk and Ms. Ruze clarified that she would like to install a historic plaque similar to others along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Ms. Lemaitre stated that the Umbrella Arts Center may have an interest in the project and that Special Collections at the library should be able to help with the research. Mr. Capizzi spoke about the work that he did on the Silas Holden House, which is located on the land owned by the State Police. He explained how he received an earmark from the state to restore the house and how he needed to get security clearance for anyone that worked on the house. Mr. Capizzi explained that there could be issues with allowing visitors due to the prisoners maintaining the grounds. Mr. Capizzi stated that he has contacts at the Department of Corrections and the State Police and that he will help Ms. Ruze to make that connection. Ms. Saalfield stated that it would be important to coordinate with Ms. Rasmussen and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee, so that signage is consistent. Ms. Saalfield also stated that the Concord Museum may have information that will be helpful with the historical interpretation. Ms. Saalfield stated that she is hoping that there can be a few questions answered before drafting a formal letter of support for the project.

Demolition Review Bylaw Amendments Warrant Article

Ms. Saalfield stated that Town Meeting is scheduled for this Sunday, June 13th.

Updates and Liaison Reports

Ms. Nelson stated that she volunteered the Historical Commission to help draft the Preservation Restriction for Wright Tavern, which is required as a condition for CPA funding. Ms. Saalfield stated that 1094 Monument Street is going to be developed into several lots, but that during the site visit, Ms. Gill and herself determined the house to be not historically significant due to significant alterations to the structure. Ms. Saalfield provided a brief update on a few Planning

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Board projects. Mr. Bogosian stated that the HDC is reviewing an application for changes to the house at 1 Sudbury Road at their next meeting. Ms. Nelson provided a brief update on the DPW Commission.

Ms. Saalfeld stated that she is interested in resurrecting the historic issues coffee.

Ms. Gill stated that as of June 15th the provision allowing for virtual meetings ends and we will need to begin meeting in person again if the extension does not pass the legislature.

Ms. Nelson stated that the neighbors of Hildreth Corner would like to preserve the lot at 615 Lowell Road

No new updates on 1710 Lowell Road.

Minutes

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes. Mr. Beardsley moved to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Bogosian seconded and all other voted in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Gill stated that Ms. Lemaitre's term expired in January while she was out on maternity leave and it had been overlooked until this point. The Commission was all in favor of re-appointing Ms. Lemaitre as an associate member of the Historical Commission.

Ms. Saalfeld declared the meeting adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Minutes Approved: July 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted by:
Heather Gill
Senior Planner